

its sixth year and serves over 100 3- and 4-year-old children each year. Of the children enrolled in the program, 75 percent of the children are Native American. I am a strong supporter of early education and appreciate Susan's commitment to helping young people get the right start by nurturing their development and providing for their well-being.

As superintendent of the Wagner Community School District, Susan Smit has successfully overcome many of the challenges associated with operating a rural school district. It is my pleasure to thank her for many years of dedicated service to the youth of South Dakota. I wish Susan, her husband Roland, and their family all the best in retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO C.L. SWOPES

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, we salute our veterans for their selfless commitment and immeasurable sacrifice to protect this nation and its ideals so we can continue to be the greatest, freest country the world has ever known. Standing up to tyranny, oppression and cruelty around the world, our troops exhibit courage under the most daunting circumstances.

Today I want to recognize the service and sacrifice of one of our veterans from the "Greatest Generation" who exemplified these traits during World War II and who is celebrating a milestone—his 100th birthday, C.L. Swopes.

Mr. Swopes spent 25 years in the Navy, originally entering the service to get relief from the hardships of the Great Depression. "The money was what I was after," he told a local newspaper about his reason for enlisting.

Serving in the Pacific during WWII, Mr. Swopes experienced first-hand the realities of war on the U.S.S. Hornet during the Doolittle Raid, the Battle of Midway and its sinking at the Battle of Santa Cruz.

"Teaching you how to climb down a rope in practice is one thing, but reality is another," Mr. Swopes recalled to local media about his evacuation from the sinking aircraft carrier.

Admittedly a weak swimmer, he spent hours in the water until being picked up by a lifeboat.

He continued his military career after WWII serving around the world and throughout the country before retiring in Millington, Tennessee.

During his service, the Desha County native made a family with his wife Mary Jane. He impressed upon his children Marva, Paulette, Lorraine, and Anthony, the importance of education. "I wished for an education so many days," Mr. Swopes said because it would have given him additional opportunities in his career.

After his Naval career, Mr. Swopes returned to his native Watson, Arkansas to take over the family farm.

I thank C.L. Swopes for his service and sacrifice as he celebrates his 100th birthday and wish him many more years of happiness.●

THE CANNON STREET ALL-STARS

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, in the heart of Charleston, SC, lies Cannon Street; it's a modest street spanning just a few city blocks. However, within its history lies the story of what Dr. Creighton Hale, the former CEO of Little League baseball, called "the most significant amateur team in baseball history."

In 1955, the area surrounding this street was one of economic blight and social unease. In an effort to keep kids out of trouble and teach skills that only team sports can provide, the local YMCA organized four little league teams for the neighborhood kids. The Cannon Street YMCA All-Stars consisted of seventeen players: John Bailey, Charles Bradley, Vermont Brown, William Godfrey, Vernon Grey, Allen Jackson, Carl Johnson, John Mack, Leroy Major, David Middleton, Arthur Peoples, John Rivers, Norman Robinson, Maurice Singleton, Leroy Carter, George Gregory, and Augustus Holt. They were coached and founded by: Lee J. Bennett, Walter Burke, Rufus Dilligard, A.O. Graham, Robert Morrison, R.H. Penn, and Benjamin Singleton. The team would advance to the Charleston City Little League playoff games but would never be given the opportunity to earn a spot in the Little League World Series. It was not because they were unworthy players or because they could not afford to go. The color of their skin stifled the dreams of these twelve-year-old boys.

The Charleston playoff games were boycotted in 1955 to preserve racial segregation. Because teams again refused to play against them, the Cannon Street All-Stars advanced past the state and regional playoffs. The National Little League invited the All-Stars to the Little League World Series as special guests; they could not compete for the title because technically they hadn't played their way to the championships. They returned to Charleston, dismayed and disappointed.

As children, they embodied the very characteristics that organized sports aim to impart—teamwork, courage and respect. As adults they have worked in productive and valuable careers such as architecture, law enforcement and education. As they have grown older, they are now volunteers in their communities—giving back, yet again. While they never had the opportunity to compete, their story has demonstrated where we have come from as a nation.

Last month members of my staff had the opportunity to meet several of the original Cannon Street Little Leaguers who traveled to Washington, DC to be recognized at Nationals Stadium before the Nationals-Phillies game. Their story remains powerful more than 65 years later, and I know my staff will never forget having the opportunity to meet them.

Today, the neighborhood that encompasses Cannon Street has developed into an integral part of the Charleston education and science community. It is

home to a number of colleges and universities and a world-class research hospital. The boys of the Cannon Street Little League Team are men who through their careers and service to the community have become assets to their neighborhoods. In spite of the adversity they encountered and the challenges they confronted, these young people illustrated to the world the absurdity of segregation and the hatred inherent in racism.

In the 55 years since they were excluded from competing to earn a spot at the Little League World Series in their own right, America has matured. I would like to believe that a handful of twelve-year-olds contributed to our maturity.

It is with great admiration that I share their story and my respect for these men with you, my colleagues.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agree to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 933) making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Schneider of Illinois, Ms. Frankel of Florida, and Mr. Connolly of Virginia.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mr. Shimkus of Illinois, Mr. Womack of Arkansas, Mr. Israel of New York, and Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 649. A bill to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a